

PREVIEW

CONNERY

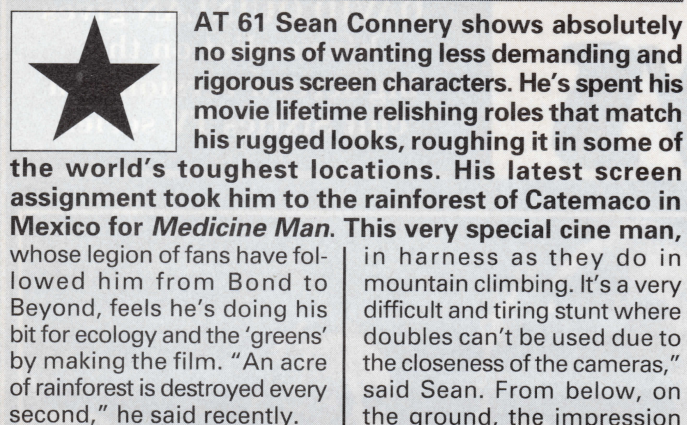
goes tree-hopping in
the rainforest as

MEDICINE MAN



Sean Connery and Lorraine Bracco with the native Indians who call him 'Medicine Man'

KEN JOHNS previews Connery's latest movie offering him another demanding and challenging role in the rainforest of Catemaco in Mexico



Filming on the tops of trees in a rainforest proved no mean feat for all concerned. Sean and co-star Lorraine Bracco who plays his blunt, tough research assistant found themselves having to act out hazardous treetop scenes showing them collecting the specimens needed for the experiments conducted by Dr Campbell, alias Connery.

Sean explained, "We had two cranes on top of each other to hold the camera so Lorraine and I could be filmed while we're that high up. This method was new to everybody and there wasn't any precedent for this kind of filming."

He and Lorraine were trained by stunt co-ordinator Fred Waugh to properly use the special mountain climbing equipment that was required for these sequences. This included a series of counterweights which thrust the actors to the tops of the trees, and an extensive cable system that enabled them to move through treetops.

"We move from tree to tree

in harness as they do in mountain climbing. It's a very difficult and tiring stunt where doubles can't be used due to the closeness of the cameras," said Sean. From below, on the ground, the impression is given that they're flying through the air.

These are some of the trickiest-ever sequences Sean has filmed.

"It was very difficult to keep your focus. You had to be very careful not to hit the trees as you moved around. You had to find the marks and say the dialogue at the same time."

"Sean took it all in his stride. To him it's just work," said director McTiernan. "Lorraine just loved it. She got up there on the high wire and acted like she was a circus performer."

Fortunately neither star suffered from vertigo. Sean has revealed that Lorraine (seen in *GoodFellas*) was *his* choice for the role of Dr Rae Crain who clashes with Connery's Dr Campbell at the start of the movie, but as the film develops through their trials and frustrations they build a growing respect, and love, for each other.

"We needed somebody who could be tough, dynamic and have a sense of humour about it," said Sean.

Medicine Man blazes its own unique trail as one of the first international 'green movies'. Others will follow. It has something important to say, and a major well respected star to put its message across, although the message is contained within its exciting adventure story which offers Sean Connery yet another fascinating role, and a chance to do some tree-hopping, an experience to add to his own adventures as one of the world's most popular movie stars.

Medicine Man will be opening soon. ●

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